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New Look for Famagusta's Old Sites: Students Highlight Cultural Heritage

With small grant assistance from SAVE, a band of energetic and committed art, architecture and art history students cleaned up and otherwise improved over twenty cultural heritage sites in the walled city of Famagusta. At an event in the historic Twin Churches on March 19th, the "Cleaning our Act" group used a slideshow of "before" and "after" photos to showcase their hard work over the last eighteen months and to raise awareness around the need to preserve Cyprus' oft-neglected cultural heritage sites. The event included members of the community, key local leaders, academics, SAVE and US embassy staff, including the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Jane Zimmerman. The students and the event underscored the need for continued care of Cyprus' sites by those responsible for them as well as by residents, tourists, and even passersby. Protecting the vestiges of Cyprus' rich and varied past is an investment in Cyprus' peaceful future.



Before and After pictures of Ayia Zoni Church, one of 22 Famagusta cultural heritage sites cleaned by the "Cleaning our Act" project

ACT Provides Families of the Missing with A Place to Grieve

The Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) announced the opening of the Family Viewing Facility, a place where the families of missing persons who have been identified will be able to view the remains of their loved ones.



US Ambassador Schlicher



Reception Room at the Family Viewing Facility

The CMP in Cyprus determines the fate of the people that went missing as a consequence of the tragic events of 1963-1964 and 1974, and exhumes and identifies the remains. An important aspect of this work is to return remains of the missing persons to their families. The new Facility, which was built with financial support from USAID through UNDP-ACT, provides a venue for this to take place. The return of remains ends a long period of uncertainty for the families and allows them to begin to heal old wounds. Our hope is that this will facilitate the overall process of reconciliation between the two communities.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

SAVE

The photogrammetry team completed its documentation work at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Famagusta and is compiling its results, which include the discovery of an underground crypt and several tombs. Visiting experts Phil Brown and Daene McKinney continued their work on several water management activities including in the areas of aquifer modeling and management and agriculture. They were also called on to provide training and expertise on reclaiming water for irrigation as water managers begin to try to cope with Cyprus' significant water shortage going into the summer months. SAVE's cultural heritage team is putting the final touches on the Famagusta Historic Trail map and guide and the Cultural Heritage Database (www.save-cyprusheritage.com) and has begun work on the displays and exhibitions for the Buyukkonuk Historic Olive Mill.

ACT

ACT-funded NGO ADD-ADHD Support held their first-ever conference Saturday, March 15th. The conference, titled "ADHD is Real" drew a large crowd and the trainers are to remain on the island for several days to complete additional training for pediatricians. The Shooting Reality film series continued touring the island; the most recent screening was in Nicosia with English subtitles. The Cypriot Civil Society Strengthening Program training courses continued with the "Managing Staff and Volunteers in Civil Society Organizations" course, held in Greek in Limassol and in Turkish in Famagusta.

EDGE

The AgriBusiness Team initiated a series of GLOBALGAP seminars aimed at improving agricultural standards and practices in the Turkish Cypriot community. Enthusiasm for the training and certification is quite high among producers who recognize that achieving GLOBALGAP is essential to penetrating new markets, including across the Green Line. The EDGE Banking Team is finalizing plans for the next three training sessions, which will focus on basic banking, customer-oriented service and international trade finance. In the area of business association development, EDGE advisors have begun working with the Turkish Cypriot Business Women's Association—a small, but up-and-coming, business support organization keen to professionalize and to begin to service its growing membership.

REAP

The Energy Professionals' Association will hold its website launch on March 27th. The organization is now officially registered as an independent NGO in the TCC. The REAP team completed the draft electricity sector regulatory law and is preparing to send it to the Turkish Cypriot energy experts. An evaluation of the Project Management Course that took place February 27-29 demonstrated that the course was very well received with an overall satisfaction rating of 4.5 on a 5-point scale.



SAVE's photogrammetry experts at work at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Famagusta



News from Nicosia

March 18

SAVE Chief of Party Barbara Rossmiller was the featured speaker in the U.S. Embassy's Brown Bag Lunch Series. Using lots of examples of SAVE's work and a photo-filled presentation, she provided an informative overview of SAVE's work.

March 21

Newly elected President Demetris Christofias met with Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat under the auspices of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to discuss ways of moving forward to resolve the Cyprus problem. They agreed to initiate work at the level of technical committees and to meet again in three months.

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.